

**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
09/26/2007 10:43 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 9/26/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/26/2007

Canada Geese - 700

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 24,000

Swans - 0

The Canada geese on the refuge are in small flocks throughout the refuge.

Duck species on the refuge are made up of mostly mallards, shovelers, and gadwalls.

Wetland conditions in Brown, Spink, and northern McPherson Counties are good, providing plentiful habitat for waterfowl. These areas should provide good hunting opportunities.

A few corn fields in the refuge area are being picked, but most crops are still in the field.

**Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist
Sand Lake NWR
39650 Sand Lake Dr.
Columbia, SD 57433
(605)885-6320**

**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
10/03/2007 10:56 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/3/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/3/2007

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 26,000

Swans - 10

There was little change in waterfowl numbers on Sand Lake during the past week. Some canvasbacks and lesser scaup moved in. Mallards, shovelers, and gadwalls continue to make up the majority of ducks on the refuge.

The first tundra swans were observed on the refuge on October 2(Thanks, Brook).

Soybean harvest has begun in the refuge area.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 9/26/2007

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Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 24,000

Swans - 0

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**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
10/10/2007 11:38 AM

To Allen Olson/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Donald
Soderlund/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Gene
Williams/R6/FWS/DOI@FWS, Jay
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/10/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/10/2007

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 20

Ducks - 38,000

Swans - 230

There has been some movement of waterfowl since last week, especially in the last couple of days. Pintail numbers increased the most, with smaller increases in mallard and green-winged teal numbers.

The first migrant snow geese were observed today near Mud Lake.

Tundra swan numbers increased throughout the week. They are located in northern Sand Lake, south of State Highway 10.

The crop harvest in the area was slowed due to the precipitation last weekend. But some small flocks of ducks are beginning to feed in some of the fields that have been harvested.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/3/2007

Canada Geese - 800

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 26,000

Swans - 10

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Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist

**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
10/17/2007 11:24 AM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/17/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/17/2007

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 20

Ducks - 40,000

Swans - 450

There is very little change in overall waterfowl numbers on Sand Lake since last week. There has been a small increase in canvasbacks. Mallards and pintails make up the majority of ducks present. Most of the waterfowl are using Sand Lake(the south pool on the refuge).

Some lesser Canada geese have been seen in the area during the past week.

All of the tundra swans using the refuge are located in northern Sand Lake, south of State Highway 10.

The wet weather this week has continued to slow the crop harvest in the area.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/10/2007

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 20

Ducks - 38,000

Swans - 230

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The first migrant snow geese were observed today near Mud Lake.

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The crop harvest in the area was slowed due to the precipitation last weekend. But some small flocks of ducks are beginning to feed in some of the fields that have been harvested.

Bill Schultze
Wildlife Biologist

**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
10/24/2007 11:09 AM

To
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/24/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/24/2007

Canada Geese - 3500

Snow Geese - 12,000

Ducks - 100,000

Swans - 1500

There was a good migration of waterfowl into the refuge area over the past weekend. There were good increases in mallards, pintails, green-winged teal, and canvasbacks. Redheads and wigeon are also starting to show up.

There are now quite a few flocks of lesser Canada geese scattered throughout the refuge.

Tundra swan numbers continue to build. The majority of these birds are in northern Sand Lake, just south of State Highway 10. But there are now swans north of Highway 10, on the very south end of Sand Lake, and a few in Mud Lake.

The snow geese on the refuge are located in two flocks; one in northern Sand Lake and one in the middle of Mud Lake. They have been flying north and west to feed.

Farmers are starting to get back into the fields to harvest, after the week of wet weather last week.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/17/2007

Canada Geese - 1200

Snow Geese - 20

Ducks - 40,000

Swans - 450

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Some lesser Canada geese have been seen in the area during the past week.

All of the tundra swans using the refuge are located in northern Sand Lake, south of State Highway 10.

The wet weather this week has continued to slow the crop harvest in the area.

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
10/30/2007 10:40 AM

To
cc
bcc

Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 10/30/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/30/2007

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 80,000

Ducks - 130,000

Swans - 2750

Waterfowl numbers are continuing to build on the refuge. Mallards are the dominant duck species on the refuge, but there are still good numbers of pintails and green-winged teal. There was no increase in divers noted.

The flocks of Canada geese are scattered throughout the refuge.

The majority of tundra swans are in northern Sand Lake, just south of State Highway 10, but there are good numbers throughout all of Sand Lake. There are very few swans currently using Mud Lake.

The largest flock of snow geese on the refuge is in Sand Lake, with a smaller flock in Mud Lake. They have been flying out mostly southeast, with smaller flocks going north and west to feed. There are also 14,000 snow geese using Putney Slough.

Crop harvest in the area is progressing, with over half of the crops out in the area.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/24/2007

Canada Geese - 3500

Snow Geese - 12,000

Ducks - 100,000

Swans - 1500

There was a good migration of waterfowl into the refuge area over the past weekend. There were good increases in mallards, pintails, green-winged teal, and canvasbacks. Redheads and wigeon are also starting to show up.

There are now quite a few flocks of lesser Canada geese scattered throughout the refuge.

Tundra swan numbers continue to build. The majority of these birds are in northern Sand Lake, just south of State Highway 10. But there are now swans north of Highway 10, on the very south end of Sand Lake, and a few in Mud Lake.

The snow geese on the refuge are located in two flocks; one in northern Sand Lake and one in the middle

William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/07/2007 10:45 AM

To
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/7/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/7/2007

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 220,000

Ducks - 125,000

Swans - 2400

Duck numbers stayed relatively stable during the week. Mallards continue to be the dominant duck species on the refuge, with some pintails, gadwalls, and green-winged teal. Some small flocks of lesser scaup were noted this week.

The flocks of Canada geese are scattered throughout the refuge.

The majority of tundra swans are in northern Sand Lake, just south of State Highway 10, but there are good numbers throughout all of Sand Lake. There are very few swans currently using Mud Lake.

Snow geese have really moved into the refuge area during the past week. Most of the snow geese are using Sand Lake, flying out in all directions. There is still a small flock using Mud Lake. There are also good numbers of snow geese using the Putney Slough area.

Some smaller wetlands and parts of large wetlands have frozen over from cold temperatures the last couple of nights. But temperatures are predicted to moderate in the coming week, which should allow the larger wetlands to remain open. Most of the crop harvest in the area is completed.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 10/30/2007

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 80,000

Ducks - 130,000

Swans - 2750

Waterfowl numbers are continuing to build on the refuge. Mallards are the dominant duck species on the refuge, but there are still good numbers of pintails and green-winged teal. There was no increase in divers noted.

The flocks of Canada geese are scattered throughout the refuge.

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William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/14/2007 11:02 AM

To
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/14/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/14/2007

Canada Geese - 4000

Snow Geese - 380,000

Ducks - 125,000

Swans - 2400

There was very little change in numbers and locations of waterfowl this week, except for a continued increase of snow geese in the area. At least 25,000 snow geese were in the Putney Slough area on 11/13.

All of the area wetlands have opened up during the past week, but the number of ducks using these wetlands has decreased.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/7/2007

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 220,000

Ducks - 125,000

Swans - 2400

Duck numbers stayed relatively stable during the week. Mallards continue to be the dominant duck species on the refuge, with some pintails, gadwalls, and green-winged teal. Some small flocks of lesser scaup were noted this week.

The flocks of Canada geese are scattered throughout the refuge.

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**William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI**
11/19/2007 01:30 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/20/2007

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/20/2007

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 250,000

Ducks - 160,000

Swans - 1800

Mallard numbers increased on the refuge since last week.

There are still good numbers of snow geese in the Putney Slough area.

All wetlands in the area are open as of today, but cold temperatures predicted for the remainder of the week could close them up. Waterfowl numbers could change quickly.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/14/2007

Canada Geese - 4000

Snow Geese - 380,000

Ducks - 125,000

Swans - 2400

There was very little change in numbers and locations of waterfowl this week, except for a continued increase of snow geese in the area. At least 25,000 snow geese were in the Putney Slough area on 11/13.

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Columbia, SD 57433
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William
Schultze/R6/FWS/DOI
11/27/2007 04:18 PM

To Waterfowl Migration Group
cc
bcc
Subject Sand Lake NWR Weekly Waterfowl Estimate - 11/27/2007 -
Final Report

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/27/2007

Canada Geese - 2500

Snow Geese - 0

Ducks - 18,000

Swans - 0

Things are pretty well frozen up here in the Sand Lake area. The lakes were frozen over Thanksgiving morning. Up to 30,000 snow geese continued to use the refuge into the weekend.

The birds remaining are using the open water near the Mud Lake water control structure.

Waterfowl Estimates for Sand Lake NWR - 11/20/2007

Canada Geese - 5000

Snow Geese - 250,000

Ducks - 160,000

Swans - 1800

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